

Photo by Sgt. Gregory Withrow

President George W. Bush greets service members and their families during a visit to Wiesbaden Army Airfield Feb. 23.

Bush: 'American people are grateful'

President, first lady visit service members, families in Wiesbaden

By Master Sgt.
David Melancon

1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

"Today I bring you a message from back home: The American people are grateful to you; your communities are proud of you. And as you defend the cause of freedom, America stands with you," said President George W. Bush to about 3,000 service members and military families in Wiesbaden Feb. 23.

The commander in chief told the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and their families that their country supports them as they serve on the front lines of the global war on terrorism.

Bush's stop at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield was part of a three-day series of meetings with NATO officials and European leaders. Before arriving on the airfield, the president met with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Mainz.

"I arrived this morning from Brussels

where I was meeting with some of our vital allies in the war on terror," Bush said. "I came to Wiesbaden to meet you, the men and women fighting on the front lines of that war. You are carrying out challenging duties with skill and honor."

Bush also praised family members for their service and sacrifice.

"Your president is here to tell you that I am proud of the military families as well," he said.

The 1st Armored Division and 1st Infantry Division have played important roles in the defense of freedom through history, the president said. The divisions were on the front lines during World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam and Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

"The 1st Armored and 1st Infantry Divisions are two of the oldest, proudest units in the United States Army," he said. "And on this day 14 years ago, soldiers in both your divisions spent their final night in Saudi Arabia, before charging into Iraq to crush the

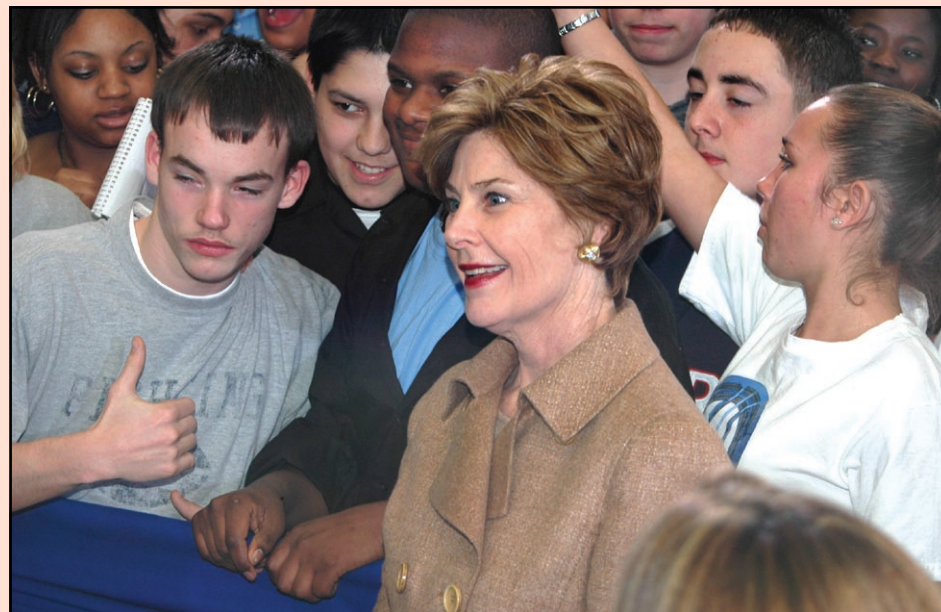


Photo by David Ruderman

Students at Wiesbaden's General H.H. Arnold High School meet Laura Bush.

army of Saddam Hussein."

When called, the 1st Armored Division "moved into Iraq in April of 2003, and you stayed for 15 months. You waged an innovative, disciplined campaign, and because of your skill and sacrifice, Iraq is sovereign and

Iraq is free," he said.

The Iraqi people struggled under a regime that crippled the country and oppressed its citizens, Bush said. Soldiers of the Old Ironsides Division repaired schools and

See President's visit on page 4

Commentary

Feedback: Have women achieved equality in the workplace?



Ursula Benoit
284th Base Support Battalion, Giessen

"By law and regulations the Army provides for the civilian workforce an environment where women and men have equal opportunities for positions and pay. To ensure equality men and women must respect and appreciate each other's diversities and learn from one another on a daily basis."



Pfc. Nick Rapela
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,
222nd Base Support Battalion, Baumholder

"Somewhat. They've come a long way and they've received equality in some types of jobs, but I still don't think they receive as much respect as most males do."



Rachel Edwards
284th Base Support Battalion, Giessen

"I think getting a job with the government has not so much to do with equality, but rather your schooling. If you don't have a good education you will not be able to find a good job — whether you are a man or a woman."



Madeleine Dwoiakowski
222nd Base Support Battalion, Baumholder

"True, we may have crashed through the glass ceiling, but only to continually bump our heads on a pink ceiling."



Peter Zeisberger
284th Base Support Battalion, Giessen

"In parts they are getting near to equality. But I don't believe that women have achieved it yet, especially in leadership positions — not only in the military. I feel it's even more visible in the economy. There are not many female leaders. It's still harder for them to get there."

From the IG Office



Soldiers responsible for providing support of their family members

By Timothy Pies
104th Area Support Group assistant
inspector general

One of the most common complaints heard by inspectors general worldwide is that of non-support to family members.

Army Regulation 608-99 — Family Support, Child Custody and Paternity — details the requirements for Soldiers to support their families.

Issues range from civilian husbands claiming their military wives fail to provide the correct monthly support allotment, to divorced spouses claiming their military ex-husbands are not abiding by court orders to provide child support, to mothers of children born out of wedlock attempting to obtain support from Soldier fathers wherever they are.

Soldiers are prohibited from using their military status or assignment to deny financial support to family members or to evade court orders regarding child custody and visitation, paternity or related matters. They are required to manage their personal affairs in a manner that does not bring discredit

upon themselves or the U.S. Army.

To avoid becoming the subject of a non-support complaint, Soldiers must educate themselves about the requirements in the regulation, which can be accessed online through the U.S. Army Publishing Directorate at www.usapa.army.mil.

Soldiers who have questions pertaining to the support of family members should start with their unit chain of command. Legal Assistance Offices can further assist in determining support requirements.

If it is determined a Soldier must provide support, the most efficient way to ensure timely and verifiable payments is through an allotment.

Soldiers who fail to adhere to the provisions of AR 608-99 by not supporting family members can subject themselves to punishment for a violation of Article 92, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order or Regulation, of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Providing support to family members is every Soldier's responsibility and every commander's concern.

Keep your computer at home safe

Did you know that as a Department of Defense employee you can use the anti-virus tools and shields available free through the U.S. Army Computer Emergency Response Team website on your home computer?

DoD employees can download anti-virus and firewall software from work or home at <https://www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/Antivirus>. Once installed virus definitions can be updated.

New comic strip in the Herald Union

Dear readers,

Please note this issue we will begin featuring a new comic strip dealing with the trials and tribulations of military life, titled Operation Elusive Concept.

Cartoonist Chris Ashby's strip has been

regularly featured in other Army newspapers including the Fort Eustis "Wheel," Fort Lee "Traveler" and Fort Campbell "Courier." Ashby, who draws his cartoons in Newport News, Va., will soon be heading north to Pennsylvania.

OPERATION ELUSIVE CONCEPT

BY CHRIS ASHBY



Herald Union

The Herald Union is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the 104th Area Support Group. Contents of the Herald Union are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. This is a biweekly publication printed by The Stars and Stripes in Griesheim, Germany. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 14,000 copies. For advertising rates contact Fred Schneider at civ (06155) 601-295, mil 349-8295 or schneiderf@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

Commander 104th Area Support Group

Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III

104th ASG Command Sergeant Major

CSM Jose A. Fontanez

104th ASG Public Affairs Officer

Raino Schareck

Newspaper staff

Editor.....Karl Weisel
Associate Editor.....Vacant
221st BSB Reporter.....Cassandra Kardeke (mil 337-5772)
222nd BSB Reporter.....Ignacio Rubalcava (mil 485-6191)
284th BSB Reporter.....Alexandra Williams (mil 343-6597)
414th BSB Reporter.....Vacant (mil 322-1600)

Address: 104th ASG, Herald Union, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001; or, Herald Union, Yorkhof Kaserne, Bldg. 1205, Chemnitz Str. 2-4, 63452 Hanau.
Telephone: mil 323-3257, civ (06181) 180-3257. Fax: civ (06181) 14029.
Email: hesherald@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil.
Home page: www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil.

News flash

AAFES fuel prices rise

Army and Air Force Exchange Service fuel prices will go up in March. In Germany the AAFES price for normal unleaded fuel will go to \$2.073 per gallon. The price for super unleaded rises to \$2.170 per gallon, super plus to \$2.265 per gallon and diesel to \$2.162 per gallon. AAFES officials remind customers that the German/Netherlands series 5 POL gas coupons with an expiration date of Sept. 30, 2004 will still be accepted at AAFES gas stations through April 30, 2005. They are not accepted at off-post facilities. Customers can request refunds for unused coupons as long as they are still attached in the original booklet at any AAFES facility through Sept. 30, 2005. (AAFES-Europe Public Affairs)

MathCounts winners

Congratulations to the winners in the 2005 Heidelberg District Chapter MathCounts Competition held Feb. 18 on Rhein-Main Air Base. The competition is open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students. The Wiesbaden Middle School team of Chris Kinkade, Laura Beck, Alison Ochoa and DeAnne Georges, coached by Martha Beck, took first place. A team from Rhein-Main's Halvorsen Tunner Elementary/Middle School took second and Giessen Middle School's team of Keala Way, Christina Gilchrist and Sarah Brown, coached by Theresa Cody, took third place honors. Wiesbaden's Kinkade also claimed first place individual and second place Count Down Round honors. Giessen's Beck placed third in the individual category. MathCounts is a national coaching and competition program designed to stimulate sixth- through eighth-grade students' interest and achievement in mathematics. The top two teams and scoring individuals advance to the state-level contest to be held in March with a chance to continue advancing to the national finals in Washington, D.C., scheduled for May. (DoDDS Heidelberg District Release)

Paper ticket fees

Installation Management Agency-Europe officials are warning that people on official temporary duty are responsible for paying paper ticket fees out of pocket if airlines offer electronic tickets on that route. On Jan. 19 Delta Airlines began charging a fee for issuing paper tickets on routes where an electronic ticket was available. Other international and domestic airlines are expected to implement similar policies. Travelers will be charged about \$20 if they request a paper ticket, and the fee will apply to each paper ticket requested, regardless of type of travel. This includes temporary duty, emergency leave and permanent change of station. Paper ticket fees are non-reimbursable expenses unless it is required to complete the mission, reimbursement is authorized by the traveler's order issuing officials and the authorization is documented on the traveler's orders, according to joint travel regulations. IMA-E's Commercial Travel Offices will collect the paper ticket fees before issuing a ticket, unless an exception is indicated on official travel orders. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

Professional development

The Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe offers the following centrally funded classes: Stress Management Workshop March 16 (for Army civilians); Crucial Conversations (for GS-12 or above, LNs or military equivalent) March 17-18; Establishing Performance Standards (for those who supervise Army civilians) March 5 and 22; Performance Interview (for those who supervise Army civilians) March 21 and 22; Counseling in Today's Workplace (for supervisors of Army civilians) March 23-24. Visit the CHRA website at www.chra.eur.army.mil and click on "Training and Development" and then "HRDD Courses in Europe" for more information.

Keeping public informed

Military officials discuss drawdown of U.S. forces in Germany, other issues with German media

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Military officials met with members of the local media Feb. 11 in the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne to discuss the drawdown of U.S. forces from the greater Hanau military community and future deployments of U.S. military units.

"Most of you probably have questions about the future of American forces in Hanau," said Brig. Gen. Randy Anderson, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for support.

"In August 2004 President Bush announced that our forward-based military forces will be reorganized and positioned to better respond to the threats faced in the Global War on Terrorism," said Anderson. "This plan will occur over the next 10 years and involves the return of 60,000 to 70,000 military members worldwide to the United States.

"The Army's forces in Europe today include approximately 62,000 Soldiers. We expect to reduce this number by approximately two-thirds over the next 10 years, leaving approximately 20,000 U.S. Soldiers in Europe at the end of the process," he said.

By restructuring its forces, the United States will be better able to meet future threats and support its allies, he said, adding that the 1st AD will return to the United States over the next 10 years.

"It's important for all of us to acknowledge that this plan may change based on the global security situation and negotiations with our allies and friends," Anderson said. "However our expectation is that due to the Army's ongoing restructuring efforts, some units may inactivate or return to the United States in the relative near term, but only after proper notification and consultations with the affected host nations."

Anderson explained that Hanau's 69th Chemical Company, stationed on Hutier Kaserne, and the D, E and F Troops of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment on Büdingen's Armstrong Kaserne were the only local units so far slated to inactivate. "This will occur on June 15, 2005," he said.

Explaining that while the 1st AD's 4th Brigade in Hanau is not scheduled to deploy to Iraq with the 1st and 2nd Brigades at the end of this year and early next year, other Hanau units such as the 127th Military Police, 502nd Engineer Company, 26th Quartermaster Supply Company and other units are already deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan or will depart in the near future. "After these units return to Germany they will undergo approximately a one-year reintegration and refitting process. No units will return to the United States direct from the region where they are deployed," Anderson stated.

"It's a long deliberate process," he added. "You will not wake up one day and units will have moved out of Hanau. ...



Photo by Ulrike Raab

Brig. Gen. Randy Anderson (right), 1st AD assistant division commander for support, and Col. Dyfied Harris, 4th Brigade commander, field questions from the German media.

Even after 1st AD leaves Hanau we expect corps elements will remain.

"I think if you ask any of our Soldiers, no one wants to leave Germany," Anderson told members of the German media. "We enjoy our partnerships and truly like living here."

Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th Base Support Battalion commander, and Col. Dyfied Harris, 4th Brigade commander, described ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and families in the greater Hanau military community, and the millions of dollars reaped by local German contractors in that effort. Besides the more than \$35 million spent on housing and barracks improvements, force protection, environmental and recreation facility projects, the Army will be investing "about \$5 million to renovate facilities for the 64th Replacement Company move to Hanau," said Anderson. The company is slated to move to Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne from Rhein Main Air Base later this year with the impending handover of Rhein Main to the German government. It will bring about 50 Soldiers to Hanau, said Ehmann.

As part of the media get-together, Harris also described the various measures the U.S. Army is taking to reduce helicopter noise — a common complaint among the local German populace. He explained several steps have been taken including shifting training areas, flight patterns, helicopter approach speeds and height.

"If there is a noise complaint, I personally investigate it," Harris said, adding that training in Germany is crucial to helping aviators survive on the battlefield. "We survive because of how you allow us to train at home. I know we make noise — we try to minimize the noise — but because you allow us to train here we are able to minimize accidents downrange."

Anderson thanked members of the press for helping U.S. officials communicate with the German public. "Your positive reporting continues to bolster the positive German-American relationships that we have enjoyed for more than 50 years," he said.

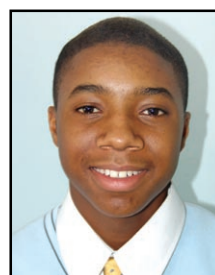
Baumholder youth is ASG's top teen

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A Baumholder American High School freshman earned the prestigious title of 104th Area Support Group Youth of the Year in this year's competition held Feb. 23 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne.

Justin Beasley, representing the 222nd Base Support Battalion; Jake Fletcher, the 284th BSB's top teen; and Cameron Warner, the 414th BSB's Youth of the Year, met with a panel of judges to discuss their achievements, goals and involvement in local Boys and Girls Clubs. Jesse Woods, a Wiesbaden high



ASG Youth of the Year Justin Beasley

school senior and the 221st BSB's outstanding youth, was unable to attend the competition.

"I see myself as a role model for the younger youths," said the ASG's Youth of the Year, Beasley, describing how involvement in the Boys and Girls Club has encouraged him to strive for excellence and to reach out to other young people to get more involved in the many organizations in their community. "The club has always taught me to think there is nothing I can't do."

The judges were impressed not only with the Baumholder youth's many accomplishments — president of

See Top teen on page 4

News and features

First lady visits Wiesbaden schools

By David Ruderman

Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Public Affairs Office

First lady Laura Bush stirred up a whirlwind of excitement when she visited Wiesbaden area schools Feb. 22.

"Everybody's excited," said Hainerberg Elementary School secretary Velda Simonson. "I think it's given the children more interest in Mr. and Mrs. Bush because they're excited to be a part of it. We're feeling lucky to be chosen to be the school."

The president's wife arrived at Hainerberg Elementary School at about 3:30 p.m. where she was greeted by Barbara Hickman, school principal, and Dr. Elizabeth Walker, Heidelberg District superintendent, and presented a bouquet of flowers by fourth-grader Jerome Aulgur and fifth-grader Sherree Simonson.

She was escorted into the school library for a musical performance by more than 100 members of the school choir conducted by musical director James Allen. She thanked the children for their warm welcome, presented Allen with an award to mark his retirement after 30 years of teaching and posed for photos with the choir.

The first lady then spent time talking with 20 fourth- and fifth-graders, answering questions and asking a few of her own. She told them she never imagined she would become first lady, that she likes spending time with her family pets and

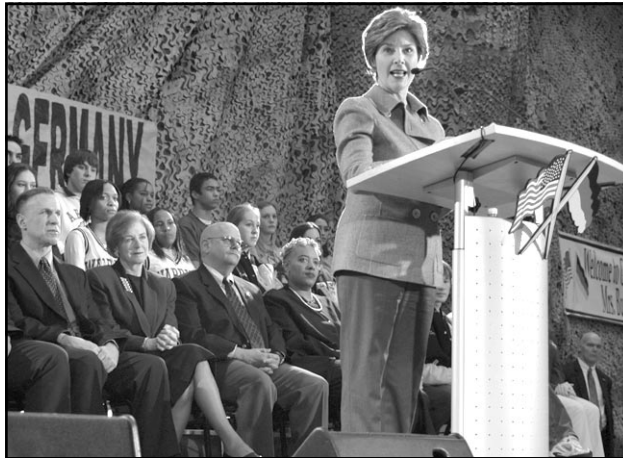


Photo by David Ruderman

First lady Laura Bush talks to General H.H. Arnold students and teachers during her visit Feb. 22.

that when she was in second grade she decided she wanted to become a teacher.

"What I found I liked most about teaching was teaching reading," she said. "Reading is a really good way to prepare for any path in life." She urged the children to spend more time reading than watching television.

The first lady posed for photos with the children and autographed postcards bearing the likenesses of the White

House and the Bushes' pets before moving on to speak at nearby General H.H. Arnold High School. She entered the gymnasium, decorated with desert camouflage netting and an enormous American flag, to a thunderous welcome from about 400 students and teachers. She was welcomed by principal Eric Goldman as "a fellow educator, a family member and mom, and a champion of countless humanitarian causes."

Bush spoke for about 15 minutes stressing the importance of the roles the students' parents have played in fighting the war on terrorism and the establishment of democratic regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, saying, "Your parents have given these children the chance to grow up in peace."

She praised the students for their sacrifice and steadfastness in helping their parents play their vital roles in defending America and guarding the peace of the world. "I am in awe of your courage and resiliency," she said.

She urged students to take their parents seriously as role models in their own lives. "Like your parents, make public service a priority in your lives," she said, noting that for some students entry into the adult world was not far away. "For you seniors, 'someday soon' is right around the corner."

After her remarks Bush spent another 10 minutes meeting students and teachers and posing for photographs with them before going on to interviews with NBC and AFN.

"These are terrific schools," the first lady told AFN in an interview before leaving. "The kids were great."

President's visit

Continued from page 1

helped rebuild the country's infrastructure.

"When the Iron Soldiers left for Iraq, Saddam Hussein was sitting in a palace. And by the time you came home, he was sitting in a prison cell," Bush said.

Bush said 1st Armored Division Soldiers served honorably with determination and accomplished their missions even when the division's return home was postponed by three months. Soldiers took on and defeated insurgent militias in Karbala, Najaf, Al Kut and Diwaniyah. Those battles helped pave the way toward Iraq's sovereignty.

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division carried on with the work begun by the 1st Armored Division, he said.

"From Kirkuk to Samarra to Tikrit, the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division worked

around the clock to prepare Iraq for free elections," he said. "More than eight million Iraqi voters defied the terrorists by lining up at the polls, dipping their fingers in ink, and casting the first free vote of their lives."

"Job well done," Bush said. "By helping the people of that country turn back the enemies of democracy, you have acted in the great liberating tradition of our nation. Together, the 1st Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division have helped to bring freedom and hope to a suffering people."

The president also cited the courage, determination and skills of the 3rd Corps Support Command and the 421st Medical Evacuation Company known as "Dustoff Europe."

"Some in your units have survived terrible injuries, and a grateful America will do

everything we can to help them recover," the president pledged. "Some of you have said farewell to some fine Americans. They represent a new generation of heroes, as great as any who have come before. Their example of unselfish courage inspires all who serve. And America will honor their names forever."

"By helping captive peoples gain their freedom, you have made a critical contribution to the history of liberty," Bush said. "And that means the world will be more peaceful, and our children and grandchildren will be more secure. With your courage, with your determination and with your skill, the cause of freedom will prevail, and we'll achieve the peace that we all want for future generations to come."

"This was definitely worth the wait," said 1st Sgt. Mark Bell, 141st Signal Battalion, one

of many who waited for a couple of hours in a tent the size of a football field to see the president.

Spectators rocked to the sounds of headline entertainers, Diana DeGarmo, runnerup in last year's "American Idol" television talent contest, and the Gatlin Brothers.

"No matter what you have heard, everybody back in the States supports you," said DeGarmo. "You are the heartbeat and soul of what keeps our country going."

Condoleezza Rice addressed the assembled crowd before the president.

"It was such an emotional speech and inspiring to all the Soldiers," said Spc. Eric Miranda, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 221st Base Support Battalion. (Cassandra Kardeke contributed to this story)

Top teen

Continued from page 3

the National Junior Honor Society, commander of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps' Raider Platoon, Torch Club president, Student Council vice president, the list goes on and on — but were awed by his self-confidence, depth of community involvement and willingness to share his positive attitude with other youths.

"I think the way he presented himself at his age was most impressive," said Karen Sue Baker, 104th ASG Youth of the Year coordinator for Child and Youth Services.

"I could not think of a more deserving and rewarding individual to represent the Baumholder military community, Child and Youth Services and Baumholder American High School as Youth of the Year," said Nate Watson, high school program director for Baumholder Child and Youth Services in his nominating letter.

"Justin projects a maturity level comparable to someone well beyond his years and is an excellent role model for all students," was the way Dominick Calabria, principal of Baumholder American Middle/High School described the

candidate. "He has consistently shown ability in maintaining a high academic achievement standard while demonstrating outstanding leadership, character and involvement within Baumholder American Middle/High School and the Baumholder community."

Besides volunteering for child development centers and in his church, Beasley also took part in the Army Family Action Plan Conference last year. "I thought it was an honor to be involved in AFAP," he said.

During the panel discussion Beasley described how he has grown over the course of his life and some of the challenges he's faced. Experiencing the separation of his parents when he was younger, his mother's decision to join the military and moving to Germany were catalysts for him to shape up and improve his outlook on life, he said. "I have a loving family that supports me in all that I do."

"The Boys and Girls Club are pretty much a second home to me," said Warner, the 414th BSB's Youth of the Year, describing the importance of his local Teen Center. "It is for many kids in the community — especially for those with parents who have

deployed — it provides a home environment."

Being involved in the Giessen club is an opportunity for Fletcher, the 284th BSB's Youth of the Year, to help younger students with their homework. "I help them with math and science. ... Life would be a lot more boring without Boys and Girls Clubs. There would be nothing to do, especially after school."

"I think I'm ready for whatever comes," said the ASG's Youth of the Year, who will now advance to the Installation Management Agency-Europe level competition with a chance to eventually go on to the national level event which is sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation and Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

"There are a lot of things that Child and Youth Services offer," said Beasley. "What I'm trying to do is reach out and let teens know there are plenty of things to do. ... I think the best advertisement is word of mouth."

Winners of the Youth of the Year competition win scholarships and the chance to attend the national Boys and Girls Club convention in the United States.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



International delight

Photo left: A student-led band plays in the foyer of the General H.H. Arnold High School during International Night. The group was followed by several student performances by both American and German groups. Photo far left: Students from a local German school offer dessert to anyone able to correctly answer German trivia questions. The Wiesbaden high school teamed with three host nation schools to highlight international cultures and education Feb. 17. Music and art demonstrations were held throughout the night for students as well as an international food tasting.

Photos by Cassandra Kardeke